

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of predicting the geographic location of a user of a communication network based on the user's network address, the method ~~comprising performed by~~ a computer system having an operatively interconnected processor, memory and communications interface, the method comprising:
  - obtaining via a communications network and the communications interface, user-reported data purportedly disclosing respective geographic locations of a plurality of users of the communications network;
  - storing the geographic location data in the memory of the computer system;
  - obtaining a respective network addresses for each of the plurality of users;
  - storing each of the network addresses in the memory of the computer system;
  - operating the processor of the computer system to correlate the stored geographic location data with the stored network address data and to generate predictive data identifying a predicted geographic location for a network address based on the stored geographic location data for multiple users;
  - storing the predictive data in the memory; and
  - operating the processor to reference the predictive data stored in the memory and to identify a predicted geographic location of a particular user of the communications network as a function of a network address through which the particular user accesses the communications network.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining, ~~wherein the predictive data comprises,~~ for each network address, a predicted geographic area

and a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic area location accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising determining, wherein the predictive data comprises, for each network address, a plurality of overlapping predicted geographic areas of increasing size, and, for each such geographic area, a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic area accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising determining wherein said plurality of geographic areas of increasing size comprise at least a city and a state in the geographic areas of increasing size.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining wherein said geographic location data comprises one or more of a home or business address and a telephone number in the geographic location data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining the geographic location data comprises obtaining said geographic location data voluntarily from said users.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein said network is the Internet and obtaining the geographic location data comprises operating a website on the Internet and asking users of the website to self report their geographic locations.

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8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein step obtaining the geographic location data comprises requiring users of the website to self report their geographic locations in order to utilize a service provided through said website.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said geographic location data comprises the users' self reported addresses.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining the network addresses comprises reading and storing at a node of the network the network address of users who access data at that node through the network.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
obtaining data indicative of the integrity of the geographic location data; and  
wherein correlating the geographic location data with the network address data further comprises further correlating the geographic location data and network address data with the integrity data to generate a rating of the likely accuracy of the predictive geographic location data.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the predictive data comprises, for each network address, a plurality of overlapping predicted geographic areas of increasing size, and, for each such geographic area, a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic area accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said obtaining and storing data purportedly disclosing the geographic location of a plurality of users of the network comprises obtaining said geographic location data voluntarily from said users.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein said network is the Internet and obtaining the geographic location data comprises operating a website on the Internet and asking users of the website to self report information indicative of their geographic locations.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the website provides a service whereby users of said website transact business with other users of said website and further wherein users of said website provide feedback information to said website about other users of the website with whom they have transacted business indicative of the integrity of the other users and wherein the integrity data comprises said feedback information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein an entity sells goods via the website and requires a user, when purchasing goods, to self report an address to which the user wishes the goods to be shipped and a payment vehicle to which the cost of the goods is to be charged and wherein the integrity data comprises a rating based on a correlation of the self reported ship to address and a billing address for the payment vehicle.

17. (Currently amended) A computer readable product embodied on computer readable media readable by a computing device for predicting the geographic location of a user of a communication network based on the user's network address, said product comprising computer executable instructions for:

obtaining and storing user-reported data purportedly disclosing respective geographic locations of a plurality of users of the communication network;

obtaining a respective network addresses for each of the plurality of users;

correlating the stored geographic location data with the stored network address data and to generate predictive data identifying a predicted geographic location for a network address based on the stored geographic location data for multiple users;

identifying a predicted geographic location of a particular user of the communications network as a function of a network address through which the particular user accesses the communication network.

18. (Currently amended) The product of claim 17 further comprising determining, wherein the predictive data comprises, for each network address, a predicted geographic area and a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic area location accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

19. (Currently amended) The product of claim 18 further comprising determining, wherein the predictive data comprises, for each network address, a plurality of overlapping predicted geographic areas of increasing size, and, for each such geographic area, a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic area accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

20. (Original) The product of claim 19 wherein said plurality of geographic areas of increasing size comprise at least a city, a state, and a country.

21. (Original) The product of claim 17 wherein said geographic location data comprises the users' self reported addresses.

22. (Original) The product of claim 17 further comprising:

computer executable instructions for obtaining data indicative of the integrity of the geographic location data; and

wherein the computer executable instructions for correlating further comprises computer executable instructions for further correlating the geographic location data and network address data with the integrity data to generate a rating of the likely accuracy of the predictive geographic location data.

23. (Original) The product of claim 22 wherein the predictive data comprises, for each network address, a plurality of overlapping predicted geographic areas of increasing size, and, for each such geographic area, a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic area accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

24. (Original) The product of claim 23 wherein the integrity data comprises data provided by users of a website about other users of the website with whom they have transacted business that is indicative of the integrity of the other users.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of predicting the geographic location of a user of the Internet who visits a Website on the Internet based on an Internet Protocol address, the method being performed by a computer system having an operatively interconnected processor and, the method comprising:

obtaining and storing in the memory user-reported data purportedly disclosing the geographic location of a plurality of users of the network who visit the website;

obtaining and storing the network addresses of the plurality of users;

the processor correlating the geographic location data with the network address data to generate predictive data predicting the associating geographic locations with an Internet Protocol address based on geographic locations of multiple users;

when a particular user of the network visits the website, referencing the stored predictive data to identify a predicted geographic location for the particular user based on an Internet Protocol address through which the user accesses the network and the predictive data; and

storing in the memory the predicted geographic location for the particular user.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

providing geographically targeted advertising to users who visit a website on the Internet based on the predictive geographic location data.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the predictive data comprises, for each network address, a predicted geographic area and a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic area accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the predictive data comprises, for each network address, a plurality of overlapping predicted geographic areas of increasing size, and, for each such geographic area, a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic

area accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein obtaining and storing data purportedly disclosing the geographic location of a plurality of users of the network who visit the website comprises obtaining said geographic location data voluntarily from said users.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein obtaining and storing data purportedly disclosing the geographic location of a plurality of users of the network who visit the website comprises asking users of the website to self report their geographic locations.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein obtaining and storing data purportedly disclosing the geographic location of a plurality of users of the network who visit the website comprises requiring users of the website to self report their geographic locations in order to utilize a service provided through said website.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein obtaining and storing the network addresses of the plurality of users comprises reading and storing at a node of the network the network address of users who accesses that node.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 further comprising:  
obtaining data indicative of the integrity of the geographic location data; and

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wherein correlating the geographic location data with the network address data further comprises further correlating the geographic location data and network address data with the integrity data to generate a rating of the likely accuracy that the predictive geographic location data.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the predictive data comprises, for each network address, a plurality of overlapping predicted geographic areas of increasing size, and, for each such geographic area, a rating of the likelihood that the predicted geographic area accurately reflects the geographic location of users who access the network through that network address.

35. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the website provides a service whereby users of said website transact business with other users of said website and further wherein users of said website provide feedback information to said website about other users of the website with whom they have transacted business indicative of the integrity of the other users and wherein the integrity data comprises said feedback information.

36. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein an entity sells goods via the website and requires a user, when purchasing goods, to self report an address to which the user wishes the goods to be shipped and a payment vehicle to which the cost of the goods is to be charged and wherein the integrity data comprises a rating based on a correlation of the self reported ship to address and a billing address for the payment vehicle.